Equal Rights

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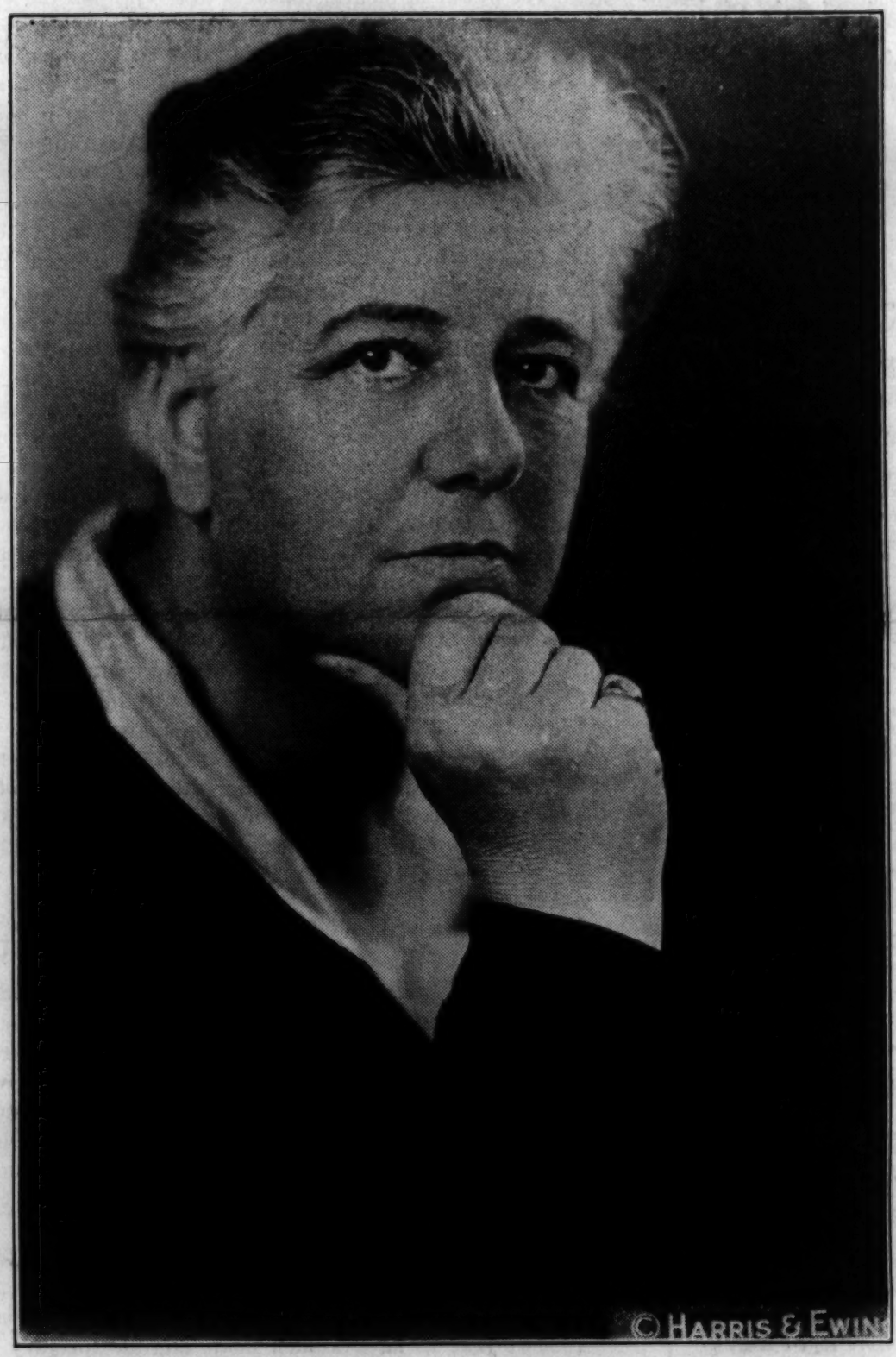

Helen A. Archdale

Chairman of the Equal Rights International, which was organized on September 9 at Geneva, Switzerland. Mrs. Archdale is secretary of the Six Point Group, London, England, and is a member of the International Advisory Committee of the National Woman's Party. She is a woman of exceptional ability and is one of the outstanding leaders of the Feminist movement.

Equal Rights

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OBJECT OF THE WOMAN'S PARTY

The object of this organization shall be to secure for women complete equality with men under the law and in all human relationships.

THE LUCRETIA MOTT AMENDMENT
"Men and women shall have Equal Rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction."

"Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

[Senate Joint Resolution Number 52]
[House Joint Resolution Number 55]
Introduced in the Senate June 4, 1929,
by SENATOR GERALD P. NYE, North Dakota.
Introduced in the House April 25, 1929,
by REPRESENTATIVE FREDERICK W. MAGRADY,
Pennsylvania.

Equal Rights International

ONE of the factors that makes international work for Equal Rights of prime importance at this juncture is the tendency of human beings to gain strength and courage from association with like-minded individuals. It may fairly be assumed that in every country on the planet there is today sufficient Feminist sentiment to crystallize out into working Feminist organizations; much of this is, however, merely latent and requires the galvanizing power of leadership to precipitate it out into useful forms.

The great bane of women has always been isolation, in their own homes, in their own families, their own villages and towns. They have been denied the benefit of communion and have lacked the inspiration that flows from one personality to another in the quest for great ideals.

The power of mental contacts to strengthen the Feminist movement is well exemplified by recent happenings in Cuba. When Doris Stevens, Jane Norman Smith, Mrs. Valentine Winters and others took the Equal Rights Treaty to the Pan-American Conference, meeting in Havana somewhat over two years ago, they little dreamed that their coming was to mark the inauguration of a strong Feminist organization in Cuba. Yet that is precisely what transpired. The Alianza Nacional Feminista, which is now recognized as being chief of Cuban women's political organizations, was a direct outgrowth of the work done by the National Woman's Party in Havana in February, 1928.

Under the very able leadership of Senora Maria Montalvo de Soto Navarro, membership in the Alianza has grown to 2,000 during the past two years, and many of the names represent some of the oldest and best known families of Cuba. The Alianza is now working assiduously to secure the franchise for Cuban women and has already secured the passage of a law permitting a Cuban woman to retain her citizenship if she marries a man of another nationality. Cuba's experience will, beyond question, be duplicated in many another land as a result of the work of the Equal Rights International.

We may, for example, safely anticipate redoubled activities on the part of the disfranchised women of France, Italy and other non-suffrage European countries as an immediate outgrowth of the establishment of International Headquarters in Geneva. Since, as our president, Mrs. Belmont, has well said, "no woman can be free anywhere until all women are free everywhere," this aspect of the new international work is of almost limitless significance.

Women of the United States may to their own advantage plentifully invest their efforts in the International, for by improving the status of women elsewhere they automatically elevate their own.

The true purposes of the Equal Rights movement cannot be fulfilled nor the implications of Feminism be realized in terms of social progress until the men and women of every country in the world enjoy Equal Rights with one another. Toward the attainment of this goal the Equal Rights International is of fundamental importance.

Of Equal Benefit

UNDER the caption, "We're For It,' the Baltimore *Evening Sun* of September 17 offers a pertinent comment on the subject of jury duty for women. Men in the States where women are still excluded from the jury box would do well to read the editorial attentively and to note the practical moral which appears in the concluding sentence. The fact that Equal Rights will benefit men as well as women is too often overlooked by the male electorate. It has sometimes even been overlooked by the editors of the *Evening Sun*. This time, however, they get the point perfectly as the editorial, which follows, shows:

"Acting yesterday on a suggestion by Mrs. Helen Sherry, a Baltimore attorney, the directorate of the Maryland Federation of Women's Clubs approved a plan to have the organization's 18,000 members strive during the 1930-31 year to have women made eligible for jury service. This is the first time the jury-service matter has received official sanction by the federation, and the proposal has yet to be ratified by the full membership.

"We hope that the action of the Federation's directors will be unanimously approved and that success will crown their efforts to achieve equality in jury service. We have never had much sympathy with the usual run-of-mine notions on equality advanced by women's organizations. The *Evening Sun* still believes in two sexes. But any man liable for jury service would be pretty much of an idiot to oppose a scheme which promises to give him at least partial relief from the most trying obligation of citizenship."

Nationality to the Fore in Geneva

THE vexed question of the nationality of women is again to the fore, having been placed on the agenda of the present Assembly of the League of Nations. Like an echo rolling up from the conference of last March when, in the discussions which took place at The Hague on the Codification of International Law, women were heard pleading their cause in defense of equality between the sexes in the matter of nationality rights, women are now to be heard in Geneva, stating the same facts, using the same arguments, patiently explaining to the delegates, gathered there for the Assembly of the League of Nations, the reasons why it would be unthinkable to attempt to impose upon the States of the world a World Code of Law which, because stamped with the mark of sex inequality, would be utterly unacceptable to women.

The campaign is in the hands of the Inter-American Commission of Women, under the leadership of Alice Paul, one of the founders of the National Woman's Party of the United States, and a member of its National Council and has the active backing before the Assembly of the International Council of Women under the leadership of the international secretary, Mlle. L. C. A. van Eeghen of Holland; the International Suffrage Alliance under the leadership of the international president, Mrs. Corbett Ashby of London; the Open Door International under the leadership of the Geneva representative, Edith Rogers; and of representative women who have gone specially from all parts of the world—"which should in itself be proof enough," Miss Paul cables to National Woman's Party headquarters in Washington, "that women, whatever their race, are united in demanding that, when a World Code of Law is made for all of the world, it shall be a law that is free from all discriminations based on sex."

It will be recalled that, so far as the question of nationality was concerned, the outcome of The Hague conference was regarded by women as unsatisfactory. True, the proposal put forward by the United States delegation at The Hague, which asked that States should be recommended to consider the possibility of introducing into their respective laws the principle of the equality of the sexes in regard to nationality, was accepted, but only as recommendation. The nationality convention actually adopted by The Hague Conference, and sent out for ratification to the various States, contained one standard for men and one standard for women in the matter of nationality, and has therefore, according to the women now gathered at Geneva, aroused protests from women's organizations in a large number of nations.

The aim of the women's campaign now is to bring before the delegates to the Assembly the need for further discussion of the nationality of women before the articles adopted at The Hague are crystallized into World Law. Already definite encouragement has been received from a number of delegations, particularly from the delegations of Australia, Cuba, Denmark, Roumania, and Spain; and the women are now bringing the subject before the First Commission of the Assembly.

"The possibility of establishing a World Code of Law containing regulations which are altogether opposed to the considered opinion of women in almost every country is truly alarming" Miss Paul says. "Women realize only too clearly the difficulties that would be involved in unmaking a World Code of Law once it was made. Certainly at this period in world affairs, international inequalities between men and women should not be written into any new world system of law. It must be realized, too, that certain States already have complete equality between the sexes in regard to nationlity rights and that, should the proposals made at The Hague go forward, these States would either have to accept an international standard lower than their own national standard, or stand outside of the projected international code."

Among those who are lending their aid in Geneva to the women's nationality campaign are: Jessie May Street of Sidney, Australia; Mme. Boskoff-Zoty, Bessarabia, leader of the women's organizations in Bessarabia; Margaret Whittemore of Santa Barbara, California, member of the National Council of the National Woman's Party of the United States; Abby Scott Baker, Washington, D. C., of the National Woman's Party; Marta Vergara, Chile; Dr. Blanche de Baralt, Cuba; Sybil Burls, president of the National Union of Women Teachers of Great Britain; Elsie Maitland and Mary J. Wier, both of the Six Point Group, Great Britain; Lily van der Schalk-Schuster, Holland; Mme. Eugene Mellar, Hungary; and Helene Romnisiano, Roumania, secretary of the International Council of Women of Roumania.

Delegates of thirteen different States attending the Assembly of the League of Nations have promised to support a resolution before the Assembly dealing with the reopening of the discussion on the question of the nationality of women at the next conference on the Codification of International Law.

Among those who have given their assistance to the promoters of the Equal Rights Treaty are Ambassador Ferrara of Cuba; Mme. Cuirlionis of Lithuania, who was last year the only woman to be a full delegate to the Assembly; Mme. Hainari of Finland; Sr. Escalanto of Venezuela; Dr. Munch of Denmark; M. Sokal of Poland; Miss Macphail of Canada; Dr. Benes of Czecho-Slovakia; and Lord Cecil of Great Britain.

Pledged to Reconsideration of Nationality

FORTY votes out of the fifty-two in the First Commission of the League of Nations are pledged to a reconsideration of the question of nationality in an international conference, according to a cablegram received by the National Woman's Party from Alice Paul at Geneva.

The votes are pledged to the resolution introduced by Ambassador Orestes Ferrara demanding a reconsideration of the convention on nationality adopted by The Hague Conference. The United States, it will be recalled, refused to sign The Hague Convention because of its discriminations against women, and a group of women representing many nations has been carrying on a campaign at Geneva for re-opening the question, under the leadership of Miss Paul, a member of the National Council of the Woman's Party and chairman of the Nationality Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women.

The forty pledges are largely due to the persistance of Miss Paul and her fellow workers in interviewing the members of the First Commission of the League.

"The re-opening of this question will call the attention of the world to the need of equality of the sexes, in all matters relating to Nationality," said Dr. Ferrara, the delegate from Cuba to the Assembly of the League of Nations, in talking with the representatives of the press about the proposal which he has introduced in the First Commission of the League to the effect that the Assembly "decides that in view of the approaching meeting of a conference on the codification of international law, the question of the nationality of women should be further studied."

The eyes of the women of many nations are upon Ambassador Ferrara at the present moment. Women all over the world have been aroused ever since the adoption last April of a Nationality Convention at the Conference on the Codification of International Law at The Hague very un-

satisfactory to women because it placed the stigma of inequality upon them by carrying over into international law a recognition of the national standards of many countries according to which the wife is under the obligation of following her husband in matters of nationality without any choice of her own.

Ambassador Ferrara, in proposing that the whole matter should be re-discussed, is conscious, of course, that in South America is to be found the greatest measure of nationality equality in the world, since it boasts four countries—Argentina, Chile, Paraguay, and Uruguay—which already give an equal status in these matters to men and women.

He is not a Feminist, or says he is not; although every now and then, as he talks, the suspicion is aroused that he has serious leanings in that direction and women well remember the value of his work when, two years ago, the Sixth Conference of American Republics, at Havana, created the Inter-American Commission of Women, charged with the task of advising upon the status of the women of the American Republics. Ambassador Ferrara prefers to regard the settlement of the nationality question from the standpoint of its relation to the needs of the modern family.

"The organization of this modern family," he said, "is today very different from its organization in the past. In the past it was essentially patriarchal; now it is based essentially upon affection and a mutual moral understanding. In the past, the family, once it was established, was compulsorily united; now it is considered, in a broad way, to be united on a voluntary basis. As a consequence of this, the present institutions which govern the family must be more elastic and more in harmony with the new understanding regarding marriage and family life; and this leads to the conclusion that, whereas, in the past, it was natural to submit the members of one family to the same legislation — which includes, of course, the same nationality—we have, nowadays, no practical reason for doing this."

"I am not," he went on," a radical in legislation; I might even call myself a conservative; and I believe that it is good conservatism to harmonize the international law that we are engaged in creating with the fundamental principles of any institution."

"SIX months ago, or thereabouts, there came from the conference of nations which sat at The Hague for the purpose of launching a World Code of Law, a treaty on nationality which contained the elements of that thing which stands as one of the greatest enemies of women at the present time—the thing known as sex inequality," said Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, national chairman of the Woman's Party, commenting upon Miss Paul's cable. "The Treaty on Nationality adopted at The Hague was designed to serve as the first chapter of the projected World Code of Law. This Treaty on Nationality has been circulated to the States of the world by the Secretariat of the League of Nations, but has not as yet been ratified by any nation. When the treaty was signed, reservations were made with regard to the nationality of married women by Colombia, Cuba, Denmark, the Netherlands, and Switzerland. It has not been signed at all by Abyssinia, Albania, United States of America, Argentina, Brazil, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Dominican Republic, Finland, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Japan, Liberia, Lithuania, Monaco, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Persi, Peru, Roumania, Siam, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Sweden, Turkey, Venezuela, and Yugoslavia.

"There is time, therefore, for action, and the women are not losing a minute of it. They have secured the formal introduction into the First Commission of the Assemby of a proposal which, if carried, will send the whole nationality question for rediscussion to a second codification conference, and they now await the debate on the matter.

"At a little shop in the Place Neuve are collected a band which may be regarded as truly international. Under the leadership of Miss Alice Paul of the United States, chairman of the Nationality Committee of the Inter-American Commission of Women, and a member of the National Council of the Woman's Party, are British women, and Australian women; women from France, and Austria, and Holland, and Portugal, and Rumania, and Switzerland, and Hungary and Lithuania, and Esthonia, and Bessarabia, and from the Scandinavian countries and the Republics of South America, who, among them, can speak almost any language, and who hold themselves in readiness to interview, in person, the delegate of any country who happens, as a member of the First Commission, to be one who may influence discussion upon the nationality proposal when it comes up."

BLANCHE Z. DE BARALT of Havana is among the many women who, during the last few weeks, have arrived in Geneva to register their desire to see the principle of the equality of the sexes in regard to nationality established in international law.

The fact that Dr. Ferrara has introduced the resolution into the First Committee of the Assembly which, if carried, will have the effect of sending the whole question of women's nationality to a future conference on the Codification of International Law for further discussion, has drawn forth expressions of sympathy and support from women the world over; and not least among them is the earnest desire expressed by Mme. Baralt that the women's side of the nationality question should be reconsidered before the articles embodied in the nationality convention which came from The Hague Codification Conference last March are acted upon.

Mme. Baralt speaks with authority in any matter which concerns women, since the greater part of her life has been spent in their behalf in one form or another.

It was she who was largely instrumental in calling together the first conference of South American women in Washington in 1915, and a second, nine years later, at Lima, Peru; and she who took a leading part in the formation of the Inter-American Commission of Women at the time of the Sixth Pan-American Conference at Havana in the early months of 1928. Now she has thrown her sympathies strongly into the work that is being done in order to secure the principle of equality in nationality rights shall be made part and parcel of the new World Code of Law which is struggling into being.

"Such an adjustment would make the nationality question a starting-point in the establishment of the legal rights of women in international law," she said. "We must recognize the importance of starting the World Code of Law on a sure foundation of equality. I do not imagine that we can hope to carry our point in regard to this equality at the first onset; but we can at least see that no step is taken in the new world code of law which would prejudice the position of women as that position has already been prejudiced in the national laws of all countries. We can at least refuse to allow this opportunity for establishing a just basic principle to pass."

"The inability to see every step that lies ahead," she went on, "is the argument always thrown into the path of progress. It needs not really worry us, because each second step always unfolds easily, provided the first has been taken in the right way. I believe firmily in the principle of equality in liberty for men and women alike. Social evolution is taking its course in conformity with this principle, and the first stages in the establishment of international law—which is, in itself, purely a product of modern social evolution—must be taken in harmony with, and not contrary to, the general trend of the time."

As a South American woman, Madame Baralt has every right to be critical of the proposals made for the new World Code, since in four countries of Latin America equal nationality rights are already operating between the sexes. The establishment of a world code which contained the elements of inequality would force these States either to accept an international code less advanced than their own national law on this matter, or to stand uotside the World Code, altogether.

Eminent Jurist for Equality

DR. SZYMON RUNDSTEIN, delegate for Poland to the Assembly of the League 'of Nations, has expressed his belief in the principle of equality between the sexes in matters relating to nationality.

He has gone further—he has stated that, in his opinion, representative women from as many States as possible should be included among those who, at the next Conference on the Codification of International Law, will debate the question of nationality.

His attitude is, of course, not particularly remarkable. It is the attitude of the majority of those who, as members of the First Committee of the Assembly this year, will take part in the discussion the proposal of Dr. Orestes Ferrara, delegate from Cuba, that "in view of the approaching meeting of a conference on the codification of international law, the question of the nationality of women should be further studied"—and it is, moreover, the attitude which might be expected of a man who may justly be looked upon as something akin to the Father of Nationality in its relation to international law.

It was Dr. Rundstein who was appointed as *rapporteur* to the Sub-Committee on Nationality of the League of Nations Codification Committee which, as the outcome of the recommendation of the Fifth Assembly of the League in 1924, was set up in the April of 1925 in company with ten other sub-committees, each charged with the task of considering some special question with a view to codification. In that sub-committee, Dr. Rundstein sat with Dr. de Magahlães of Portugal and Professor Schücking of Germany, and, ever since then, he has been in the forefront of nationality matters whenever and wherever they have arisen.

The rumored suggestion that a claim might be put forward to the effect that, so far as the question of nationality was concerned, a settlement quite satisfactory for practical purposes had been arrived at The Hague Codification Conference last March, was contradicted by Dr. Rundstein.

He gave it as his opinion that the work done for nationality at The Hague constituted only the first step towards its final solution. The very fact that a recommendation was adopted which urged consideration of the possibilities of establishing equality between the sexes was, he pointed out, proof in itself that the desire at that time had not been to exclude, but to promote, further consideration.

Under these circumstances, it was of the utmost importance to uphold the proposal for rediscussion which Dr. Ferrara had already introduced into the First Committee, he said.

"We must undoubtedly continue the work on nationality begun at The Hague," he said. "To abandon it now would leave the whole effort towards codification unfinished and fragmentary. I hope most certainly that the Committee on Codification Conference, which will surely be convened in the future, will not fail to occupy itself with the question of women's nationality."

Dr. Rundstein spoke, too, of the advisability of including women as delegates to any new nationality conference—a desire already expressed in no uncertain terms by the Ninth Assembly of the League which, in 1928, adopted a resolution pointing out that, in view of the special interest the question of nationality had for women, coupled with the fact that Article 7 of the League Covenant embodied the principle that all positions in connection with the League should be open equally to men and women, members of the League should bear these things in mind when composing their delegations.

There appears only one doubt in the mind of Dr. Rundstein in regard to the trend of affairs concerned with nationality, and that doubt does not really affect the present position, since it applies to methods of procedure in re-discussion rather than to the possibilities regarding the actual opening of that re-discussion—which is, after all, the only thing for which women are asking.

"My personal opinion is that matters may prove too difficult to be proceeded with, at this moment, by way of a uniform international arrangement," he said. "It might be wiser to consider the more limited method of regional conventions on nationality, since one has to face the fact that there are still many nations which persist in opposing equality in nationality. It would be advisable also to consider action in the single States, since the adoption of national legislation based on the idea of the equality of the sexes would of course hasten and facilitate the work of world-wide codification of the laws of nationality on the basis of equality."

Party Seeks Women's Votes

IT is an encouraging development when a political party makes a particular play for the votes of women by insisting that it is responsible for what equality women enjoy. It would be a more encouraging development if a political party in power should actually extend women's equality with men under the law, in public office, both elective and appointive, and in power in the party itself.

The Democratic Party, not being in control in Federal affairs, is charging, as campaign material, that the Republican Party has not recognized women. In a statement issued by the Democratic National Committee, Nellie Tayloe Ross, former Governor of Wyoming and now vice-chairman of the Democratic National Committee, said:

"Even partisan Republican women have given both public and private expression to their dissatisfaction with the attitude their party has shown in ignoring women, and no matter how much the Republicans may try to suppress further expression of like import from leading Republican women, they have already spoken. Furthermore, the record speaks for itself. The Republican Party can not escape responsibility when it has had the power for ten long years and has refused to include women, in any just degree, in the administration of government.

"There can be numbered on the fingers of one hand the women who, under the administrations of Presidents Harding, Coolidge, and Hoover, have received such outstanding notice as to make their names familiar throughout the country.

"The Democratic President, Woodrow Wilson, even before women received suffrage, gave to them more distinguished recognition than they have received since at the hands of his three Republican successors. Indeed, important posts opened to women by President Wilson have since returned to the incumbency of men.

"Aware of the superior record of the Democratic Party, women are, in increasing numbers coming to the conclusion that their hope for political advancement lies in the restoration of power to the Democratic Party."

The "Democratic Summary of Campaign Issues, 1930," which is the "campaign textbook," says under the heading, "Democratic Party First Gave Full Recognition to Women":

"A Democratic Legislature in Wyoming first gave women the elective franchise and thus inaugurated equal suffrage at the polls—the initial victory for which women suffragists had been working for many years. The precedent thus established was followed by numerous other States and eventually led to the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the Constitution conferring national woman's suffrage.

"A Democratic national administration — Woodrow Wilson's — first gave women recognition in the conduct of the national government by appointments to important public offices, including executive, administrative and judicial positions.

"A Democratic national convention at San Francisco, 1920, first gave women equal representation in the national party organization, both with respect to the number of national committeewomen and equal voting power with the committeemen. That precedent was followed in various State and local Democratic Party organizations. A Republican national convention four years after the Democratic national convention had given full recognition to women in national party affairs on a fifty-fifty basis, gave partial recognition to women in its national organization.

"The attitude of the Democratic Party toward enfranchised women has been to regard them, not only as voters, but as co-workers in party affairs, sharing responsibility with men in politics and in the conduct of government.

"The records show that the Democratic Party has been foremost in the enactment of humanitarian and social legislation and in the advancement of political ideals in which women have always voiced intense interest. Upon that record, the policies of the Democratic Party have a logical appeal to women as the best safeguards of the rights of themselves and their children and the welfare of the family. These ideals are illustrated both in the foreign policy and the economic policy of the Democratic Party, which logically make for world peace. The foreign policy of the Republican Party in whatever respect it might promote world peace is nullified by its economic policy which promotes international ill-will and economic and political isolation."

Of course, all these claims in behalf of the Democratic Party would be more convincing to women if, in States where the Democrats control State affairs, more women were nominated by the Democratic Party for high elective office and more were appointed to high State office, and if, in Congressional districts normally Democratic, more women were nominated for Representative in Congress. The Democrats now have three women in Congress, out of 164 Democrats, and one of them was not a candidate for re-election this year. The Republicans have five women out of 263 Republican members of the House of Representatives. The proportions are about the same. The Republicans, more or less against the will of the State "organization," however, have nominated one woman for the Senate in a normally Republican State, while the Democrats have nominated no woman for the Senate in a normally Democratic State. The Republicans have renominated all the women members of the House for re-election, except Ruth Hanna McCormick of Illinois, who won the Republican nomination for the Senate, and the Democrats have renominated the two who were candidates for renomination—Ruth Bryan Owen of Florida and Mary Teresa Norton of New Jersey.

There seems at present little likelihood that any women will be added to the House of Representatives in the Seventy-second Congress by either party. Thus, with two members voluntarily retiring from the House, there will probably be only six women in the next Congress, even if all the six renominated are re-elected in November. Six out of 435 members! And a possibility of one woman Senator out of ninety-six members of the Senate—after ten years of woman suffrage!

It seems to EQUAL RIGHTS that neither of the major political parties has anything to boast about, but much work in behalf of women still to do.

There have been stirrings here and there. Women in New York State have urged the selection of more women candidates for office to which they have a chance to be elected. Josiah Marvel, Democratic national committeeman for Delaware, who lost his race for the Democratic nomination for the Senate, suggested that one woman be nominated for some high State office. Mr. Marvel was an avowed anti-suffragist, we are informed. Apparently, however, not even one woman was nominated by the Democrats for important State office in Delaware.

Press Comment

A Deserved Promotion

From Life and Labor Bulletin, Washington, D. C., July, 1930.

ANY doubts regarding the attitude of the general public toward the appointment of a woman to the Cabinet have been dispelled since the name of Grace Abbott, present chief of the Children's Bureau, has been brought forward as a candidate for the labor portfolio when Secretary James J. Davis retires from that office. As viewed through the news and editorial columns of the press, the reaction of the country toward this recommendation has been distinctly favorable, and appears to be due not so much to the desire to see a woman in this office as to recognition of her unusual qualifications for the job.

President Hoover has been represented as believing that ability, rather than sex, must be considered in making political appointments, and that to stand an equal chance with men women must be able to show equal ability, experience, and qualifications. The country at large recognizes Miss Abbott's exceptionally wide experience in dealing with such problems as come under the Department of Labor. Furthermore, the steady increase in the number of women in industry presents an additional reason why the first woman Cabinet member here, as in England, might well be Secretary of Labor.

With the numerous endorsements of Miss Abbott by friends of labor (Miss Abbott is a charter member of Local No. 2, National Federation of Federal Employees), social workers, educators, and others familiar with her admirable record of service, we hope that President Hoover will consider for appointment as successor to Secretary Davis a woman whose achievements have been so noteworthy that no voice has yet been raised to challenge her fitness to be known as Secretary of Labor of the United States. The National Women's Trade Union League of America urged her appointment to the President, believing her experience and ability pre-eminently fit her for this very important post.

A Free Womanhood? Not Yet!

From the Journal, Milwaukee, Wis., September 17, 1930.

THE women of America celebrate the tenth anniversary of their suffrage victory. They are glad, and we are sure the nation is glad, that they won the vote. Their enfranchisement has not changed political conditions enough to be noticed, but it has started a great body of citizens toward an intelligent consideration of public questions. And the Nineteenth Amendment itself represents a forward step in making the United States a more complete democracy.

But the League of Women Voters gives sharp point to this celebration when it demonstrates that women are still far from an equality of fundamental rights under our laws. Yes, they have the vote, everywhere. Some of the States have even elected women governors. Texas did; but in Texas no woman has legal control over her earnings if she has a husband. In eight States, though a woman may become a judge, even sitting in judgment on the guardianship of other people's children, she has no rights of guardianship over her own. Though women are the home-makers and home-managers everywhere, in fact, no State has given them an equal voice in saying where that home shall be. It is to be wherever the husband sets his wife down.

Instances might be piled up indefinitely—instances of discrimination against women in the management of property, in the right to share in the family income or even to say what is to be done with the

children they bring into the world. The old wall that was raised against women in tribal days has been battered through in places, but in general it remains intact. To tear it down completely and make the seeds of fundamental equality grow where these stones now bar the way is the next step.

Woman's fight to accomplish that ought to have the support not only of women, but of all men who think in terms of progress. There is no reason today why there should be anything but complete legal equality. The age is due for that. Recently a movement was begun among lawyers to make the law conform to actual social conditions. Well here is a big field for the leaders of legal reform.

Women Protest Industrial Restriction

MORE and more women are publicly protesting, not only in groups, but as individuals, against the imposition of industrial restrictions on women which do not apply to men. EQUAL RIGHTS has from time to time reprinted letters written by women to newspapers voicing such protests. Women continue to write to the editors on this topic.

A letter signed by Marjorie Ann Gillis and dated September 19 was published in the Boston *Herald* as follows:

"I notice by this morning's paper that the members of the Cranberry Growers Association are urging the Commissioner of Labor and Industries to rule that the preparation of the cranberry for market is a seasonal occupation, thereby permitting their 'screeners' many of them women, to work more than eight hours a day when unexpectedly large orders are received.

"The women, the growers said, would like the opportunity to work the few additional hours. Also the growers claim it is impossible to obtain additional experienced screeners when heavy orders are being filled, and the limitations of hours of employment has prevented the growers from filling large numbers of orders.

"Here is just another example of the handicap that special labor laws for women place upon the woman worker.

"Eight hours is a long enough working day for anyone whether man or woman under ordinary circumstances, but any adult, regardless of sex, should have the right to choose whether or not they shall engage in overtime work at peak times. The duration of the working season in this particular industry is short at the most. Why deprive any of the workers of the opportunity while it is there?

"These paternalistic laws that class women with minors (no matter under what mistaken intent they were inaugurated) are not benefiting the woman worker. All laws governing the work of adults should be based on the nature of the work and not on the sex of the worker.

"These women in the cranberry industry are trained workers the same as the men, and should be governed by the same regulations, and enjoy the same privileges. The less we have of these discriminating laws the better for all workers."

The following letter, dated September 16 and signed by Katharine Ward Fisher of Washington, D. C., appeared in the New York *Times* of September 27:

"Grown women are once more classed with young boys and girls, this time in a resolution adopted by the executive committee of the Cotton Textile Institute, recommending the abolition in cotton mills of night work for 'women and minors,' according to a recent issue of the *Times*. It seems clear that very young people should not be employed during long or late hours. Whether adults of either sex should under any conditions work on night shifts in mills is a question I shall not undertake to discuss. But the statement made that the United Textile Workers favor 'a similar program' reminds me of the way a man active in labor circles once explained to me why in labor legislation women are so often classed together with children and their work regulated in the same way.

" 'Sure they've got to be treated alike in the law,' he said. 'They are one class. Don't they both take men's jobs?' "

Feminist Notes

Branches of O. D. I.

NATIONAL branches of the Open Door International have been formed in Germany and in Denmark. The National Woman's Party is affiliated with the Open Door International, and is the only United States group affiliated. The organization, which stands for the economic emancipation of the woman worker, will hold its second conference and a summer school in Stockholm, Sweden, August 17-30, 1931.

Jobless Diplomatic Husbands!

WHEN Sir Hubert Montgomery was asked why diplomatic and consular posts in the British foreign service were all reserved for men, he gave as one of the reasons the possibility that "if women were allowed in the diplomatic and consular services, and were permitted to get married, their husbands could not carry on any business occupation at the post where they were appointed."

Opportunity, official organ of the British Federation of Women Civil Servants, commented in its July issue:

"So, in the meantime, all women are to be excluded from such posts because the problematical husbands of some future women emancipated from the marriage bar *might* want to carry on business in the locality of their wives' official duties! Lord Tomlin supplied the appropriate comment. Realizing that the Royal Commission was not appointed to discuss the woes of imaginary husbands, he suggested that what the witness really meant was, how distressing it would be for the civil servants herself — to have 'her husband hanging about the house all day.' "

Woman Judge

MARY A. WETMORE, the first woman ever to sit on the bench in San Francisco, was sworn in as a municipal judge on July 2. Judge Wetmore was appointed by Governor C. C. Young to the newly created court. Mrs. Wetmore was for many years legal secretary to Associate Justice William H. Langdon of the California State Supreme Court.

"Women and Children"

THE *Associated Press* reports that operatives of 1,215,00 spindles spinning carded yarns, meeting in Charlotte, North Carolina, unanimously approved on September 26 the proposal of the Cotton-Textile Institute, Inc., that women and children be barred from night work in the textile industry after next March. Approximately sixty heads of spinning mills were present at the meeting, which was of the carded yarn group of the institute.

Against Sex Discrimination

ALTHOUGH Mary Anderson, chief of the Women's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor, has often urged that women be barred from night work in industry, her Labor Day statement urged that women not be discriminated against in awarding jobs, particularly emphasizing the need of a no-sex-discrimination policy during a period of unemployment.

Her statement said, among other things:

"Another fact to be faced squarely is that a period of unemployment should not be made more warped through the introduction of a sex issue. The truth is that women as well as men are needed in the

ranks of wage earners; it is not a question of displacement of one sex by another, but rather of satisfactory adjustment of both.

"In the past months men and women have suffered alike through the cutting down in production and loss of jobs.

"The truth is that women as well as men are working to secure a livelihood and that both sexes must continue to earn in order to live. Women as well as men are working to maintain the foundation of our civilization, namely, the family and home.

"Finding immediate remedies for our present slump is the urgent business confronting us and calling for straightforward thought and action. In planning a program of industrial betterment the most obvious feature to be discarded is not this or that class of workers, but the long workday.

"The short workday has been established in many plants, but it is far from universal. It is a simple expedient, easily applied and not requiring complicated machinery for its inauguration. In view of the fact that it means more general employment for everybody and more even employment for more workers, it offers itself as a powerful lever for relief to be seized upon at the present time.

"The short working schedule is not only fair, but economically sound."

Miss Anderson said that "during hard times employers have honestly and, perhaps at a sacrifice, tried to give work to the married and single men known to be the mainstays in family budgets. We should like to see this commendable policy more generally extended to women, both married and single, who have obligations to meet similar to the men's. As there is today no sex line in the matter of economic responsibilities, there should be no sex discrimination in the award of jobs."

Banker

LOIS A. WHITE has been made a member of the National Women's Committee of the American Banking Institute. She is a former vice-president of the Washington Bank Women's Club and is connected with the Federal-American National Bank in the National Capital.

New York Republicans Ignore Women's Plea

AT the Republican State Convention held at Albany, New York, on September 25, Grace Kay Long, vice-chairman of the New York State Branch of the National Woman's Party, appeared before the Resolutions Committee to ask for the adoption of a plank in the party platform reading:

> "We believe that women should have an equal status with men in the laws of our State.
>
> "Today women are an established and increasingly important part of our economic life. We believe, therefore, that women in the professions, in business and in industry should be free to work and protected as workers on the same terms as men; that whenever legislation is necessary, it should be based upon the nature of the work and not upon the sex of the worker."

Maude Williams, a member of the Industrial Council of the Woman's Party, represented at the hearing several hundred industrial women who are members of the Council. Mrs. Williams urged the adoption of the plank on the ground that wage-earning women are being discriminated against by the passage of laws which regulate the hours of women but not those of men.

"These laws prevent women from securing executive positions when they compete with men in trades that employ both sexes and chances of promotion for the women are lost because they are unable to work the same hours as men. These laws affect the pay of women and it's the pay envelope that counts," said Mrs. Williams.

According to the press reports of the platform adopted by the convention, no mention was made of the plank for Equal Rights for women. In view of a general demand by organizations of wage-earning women that the convention should take a stand in favor of industrial equality for women, it seemed that the Republican Party had much to gain and little to lose by responding to that demand. The platform adopted asks that there shall be "reasonable laws of regulation as will permit industrial competition on an equal basis with other enlightened States and countries," but the Republican Party in New York State evidently fails to see that there can be no competition between men and women workers unless "laws of regulation" are on an equal basis.

News from the Field

Sunday Teas at Headquarters

THE regular Sunday afternoon teas at Alva Belmont House, national headquarters of the National Woman's Party, were resumed with the opening of October. Alva Belmont House will be open every Sunday to visitors, members, and friends of the Woman's Party, and speakers on Feminist topics will be heard on the first and third Sundays of each month throughout the season.

Tea for Muna Lee

THE National Woman's Party gave a garden party in honor of Muna Lee, the new director of national activities, on October 5, at national headuarters., Alva Belmont House, in Washington. Miss Lee—in private life Mrs. Luis Muñoz Marín—recently arrived in Washington from the University of Porto Rico, which has given her leave of absence for one year to pursue her work with the Woman's Party in the States. She is head of the Bureau of International Relations in the Porto Rican institution.

Miss Lee is a member of the Nationality Committee of the Inter American Commission of Women, and was one of the seven women invited by the Sixth Pan American Conference to address them on the subject of Equal Rights in plenary session at their Havana meeting. She is a permanent member of the council of the Poetry Society of America, and author of a book of poems, "Sea Change," as well as of numerous translations from the Spanish. A frequent contributor to periodicals in both English and Spanish, Miss Lee is well known to the reading public. She is a member of the Society of Women Geographers.

In the receiving line of the garden party were Mrs. Harvey W. Wiley, national chairman of the Woman's Party; Maud Younger, congressional chairman; Mrs. Paul M. Linebarger, social chairman; and Mrs. Felix Cordova Davila, wife of the Commissioner frim Porto Rico.

Miss Lee spoke briefly on the program of the Woman's Party during the present condition of economic unrest, and of the progress toward Equal Rights achieved this year.

District of Columbia Branch Meets

THE District of Columbia Branch of the National Woman's Party met at Alva Belmont House on October 3 to plan the winter's work and to elect officers.

The following officers were elected: Mrs. Paul Linebarger, chairman; Jennie Berliner, vice-chairman; Faith Binkley, secretary; Mabel Law, treasurer; Mrs. Andrew Stewart, legislative chairman.

The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Emile Berliner, the outgoing chairman, who has just been made a national officer of the Woman's Party, becoming chairman of the Homemakers' Council.

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